

From: Brendan Irvine-Broque
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think that Microsoft needs to be penalized in a way that lets them continue production of all products other than their Windows operating system. The Windows operating system should be given a very large setback, such as limiting the amount of computers which it is shipped with each year, but products such as Microsoft Office should be left untouched. I have been a mac person for many years, and while I thoroughly detest the Windows operating system and the scams that have come with it, i greatly appreciate the benefits that Microsoft Office has given to the entire personal computing industry. At this point, almost everyone uses Microsoft Office, and it would be devastating if as a result of this antitrust suit, Microsoft would be forced to put less effort into the creation of newer versions of Office.

Now, at the same time, this does not mean that I do not want Microsoft to be punished, because I think that it should be punished greatly for how it has not only hurt competing companies, but for how it has revoked the choice of operating system from the consumer. People can talk all day about the many alternatives to Windows, but the fact is that for the vast majority of users, there is no choice. Linux, the UNIX based Windows alternative, has never been put into a standard version so that the average consumer can use it without spending hours of frustration trying to make it work. The Macintosh Operating System, especially with the amazing new Mac OS X, is thought of as a better operating system than Windows by critics and consumers, including PC users. But because of the Windows monopoly, it is still making a recovery to regain thousands of applications that it lost. I myself am an avid mac person, but just months ago I was forced to buy a new PC instead of a Macintosh because the server that I needed to access was running Microsoft software which my computer was not compatible with. It is sneaky tactics like this that have given Microsoft this monopoly.

As for a solution for this problem, I am not sure what that might be, but what it should do is give other companies and other operating systems a chance to be equal with Windows instead of struggling to stay afloat.

Thank you for listening,

Brendan Irvine-Broque